of contracted labour had come up in between quarters but the same have already been removed. There is a 2 seater urinal-cum-toilet in the parking opposite Birla Mandir.

(c) New Delhi Municipal Corporation has a plan for redevelopment of the entire area and construction of public toilet on BOT basis on Mandir Marg for the convenience of the tourists.

Financial assistance to Assam for promotion and development of Tourism

2801. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of plans submitted by the State Government of Assam to Government for its approval and assistance for development and promotion of tourism sector in Assam during the year 2002-2003; and

(b) if so, the present status of implementation of such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territories Administrations. Department of Tourism, Government of India provides financial assistance for identified tourism projects in consultation with the State/UTs concerned.

The following tourism circuit in the North East Region have been identified for integrated development in consultation with the States:—

Shillong-Guwahati-Kazirnaga-Tezpur-Bhalakpung-Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh)-Majuli-Sibsagar-Kohima.

HUDCO has prepared a project report for development of this circuit.

Besides, it is proposed to develop a major tourist destination each year in all the States/UT's during the Tenth Plan.

Private participation in Tourism Sector

2802. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI BJ. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether private sector has shown interest in development of tourism in some States or region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to sensitize tourist centres to attract foreign travellers *i.e.* promote hygiene and security which is the prime concern of the foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The private sector plays a major role as tour operator/travel agents and by setting up of hotels. They have also shown interest for the development of tourism in the States/region in the sector of adventure tourism, cruise tourism, resort tourism and upkeep of monuments etc.

(c) The Government have taken the following steps for the development of Tourism:

1. Positioning and maintaining tourism development as a National priority activity;
2. Creation of world class infrastructure;
3. Attention of civilizational issues and issues pertaining to civic administration, good governance and also of social and cultural values; and
4. Development of tourism circuits and improvement of wayside amenities to facilitate growth in tourism.

The Governments of Jammu and Kashmir, Goa, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan have already created Special Tourism Police Force and the Government of West Bengal, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Delhi are in the process of deployment of Special Tourist Police for the safety of the foriegn tourists.

Outcome of the meeting of Asian Network of Major Cities

2803. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a host of Asian countries which share common values and aesthetic perceptions met in New Delhi on 20 to 23 November,